

# WARNED MISSISSIPPI ON ANTI-LYNCH BILL

**Sumners of House Judiciary Committee Urges Punishment of Duck Hill Mob Leaders**

## FIGHTS GAVAGAN MEASURE

**State Citizens Denounce Torture and Death of Two Negroes and Demand Court Action**

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, April 14.—Chairman Sumners of the House Judiciary Committee telegraphed to Governor White of Mississippi today that the State could not escape being an accessory after the fact to the Duck Hill lynchings, unless it meted out quick punishment to the lynchers and officers.

Representative Sumners is leading the fight in the House against the Gavagan Anti-Lynching Bill on the ground that the Federal Government should not intrude upon a State's right to govern.

The telegram called the lynchings of two Negroes at Duck Hill, Miss., yesterday as "dastardly a crime as cowardice could devise and brutality execute," and added:

"It is the sort of thing which makes it hard for us who are here trying to protect the governmental sovereignty of the States.

"It will be effectively seized upon as a demonstration of the inability of the States to govern," continued Mr. Sumners, who represents the Fifth Texas district.

Representative Rankin of Mississippi sought to sidetrack consideration of the Pettengill Long and Short Haul Bill to keep the House from considering the Gavagan bill, which has the rank of unfinished business. His tactics were designed to send the Gavagan bill into next week's uncertain parliamentary program, since the House intends to adjourn tomorrow until Monday.

Mr. Rankin, backed by opponents of both the Pettengill and Gavagan bills, forced a roll-call on consideration of the former measure. The House voted to take up the Pettengill bill and finally passed it.

When the majority leader, Mr. Rayburn, asked unanimous consent for the House to meet at 11 o'clock tomorrow, an hour earlier than usual, Mr. Rankin objected. Mr. Rayburn, however, gave notice that the House would be kept in session tomorrow until it disposed of the Gavagan bill.

### Mississippians Assail Lynching

By The Associated Press.

JACKSON, Miss., April 14.—Lynch law was condemned today as "cowardly, brutal and lawless" by officials and citizens in demanding punishment for mob leaders

who yesterday tortured and killed two Negroes accused of slaying George S. Windham, a white storekeeper, at Duck Hill, on Dec. 30, 1936.

Governor Hugh White requested District Attorney Clarence Morgan at Winona to investigate the lynching and report to him.

The New York Times

Published: April 15, 1937

Copyright © The New York Times